

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At present there is no such proposal.

(c) Operational and resource constraints.

[English]

Sanitary problem in the country

1997. SHRI BHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item cautioned "India among dirtiest in world" appearing in the Patriot dated November 11, 1991; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTH): (a) Yes, sir.

(b) It is a fact that sanitary conditions in our cities and towns are not ideal and there is much scope for improvement.

Sanitation is primarily a State subject and it is the responsibility of the State Government/UTs and Urban local bodies to plan and maintain sanitation schemes. However, Central Government also supplement the efforts of the State Governments/UTs.

Under the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade Programme from 1981-90, coverage of sanitation in urban

areas till the end of December, 1990 was 45.93% (provisional).

During the 8th Five Year Plan, there is a scheme for the elimination of manual scavenging in the country to the minimum extent possible. This will be achieved by conversion of day latrines/construction of low cost water-seal port flush latrines at the rate of 500 towns per annum, on whole-town basis. The scheme is being operated through HUDCO by providing a mix of central assistance in the form of subsidy and loan from HUDCO to State Governments/UTs.

The Central Government have also circulated a package proposal to the pilot projects for solid waste management over a period of three and on coast sharing basis by the Centre and the State/local bodies in the ratio of 50 : 50.

[Translation]

Crossings at Markendih and Murkunda

1998. SHRI BHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no railway crossing at Markedih between Parsabad and Chobe and at Murkunda between Barkakana and Patratu on Grand Chord line in Hazaribagh district;

(b) whether the Government propose to construct railway crossing at these places for preventing accidents; and

(c) if so, by what time and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c), The Railway can take action

in the matter only after the State Government/Civil Authorities sponsor firm proposals for the desired facilities, duly consenting to bear the cost, as per rules.

Pollution by Public sector Units

1999. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some public sector units have been violating the instructions by not installing the pollution control equipments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government against such units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some public sector units in the country are not conforming to the prescribed standards due to their not installing adequate pollution control equipment. However, these units have already initiated steps to provide the necessary pollution control devices. The progress of work in this respect is monitored by the respective State Pollution Control Boards.

(c) The action taken by the Government against such units is as under:

- i) Effluent and emission standards have been prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;
- ii) Environmental guidelines have been evolved for siting and operation of industries;
- iii) Industries have been

asked to comply with consent requirements of the State Pollution Control Boards to limit the discharge of effluents and emissions within the stipulated standers;

iv) The Central Government, in consultation with the State Governments, has prepared an action plan to meet the effluent and emission standards for polluting industries, including public sector units;

v) Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and also for the shifting of polluting industries from congested area;

vi) Network of ambient air quality and ambient water quality monitoring stations have been set up;

vii) A scheme has been initiated to give assistance to closer of small-scale industrial units for setting up common effluent treatment plants.

[English]

New Flight between Indore and Bhopal

2000. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA:
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government have any proposal to introduce new air routes between Delhi, Indore and Bhopal; and